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HENRY S. METZ'S

## HISTORY AND REMINISCENCES

— OF —

# Schuyler County, Illinois,

— AND —

## ADDRESSES

Read and Delivered at the Centennial Celebration, July 4, 1876,

— IN —

## RUSHVILLE, ILLINOIS.

History means what is a matter of record; an account of facts, particularly of facts respecting Nations or States; a narration of events in the order in which they happened, with their causes and effects. History differs from annals. Annals relate simply facts and events, and events in each year in strict chronological order without any observations of the writer.

History regards less strictly the arrangements of events under each year and admits the observations of the writer. Therefore, in preparing this history of Schuyler county we shall only refer to facts as we can collate them from, as we suppose, authentic sources.

Schuyler county was formed in January, 1825, out of the counties of Pike and Fulton. The act erecting the county was passed January 13th, 1825, and reads as follows:

"Be it enacted, &c., That all that tract of country within the following boundaries, to wit: Beginning at the place where the township line, between two and three south, touches the Illinois

river, thence west on said line to the range line between ranges four and five west; thence north on said range line to the northwest corner of township three north range four west; thence east on said township line to the meridian; thence down the meridian line to the southeast corner of township three north range one west; thence east on said township line to the Illinois river; thence down the said river to the place of beginning, shall constitute a county to be called the county of Schuyler."

The boundaries embrace what now composes the counties of Schuyler and Brown. But in February, 1839, the county of Brown was cut off of Schuyler county, the trouble of reaching Rushville (county seat), on account of the high waters of Crooked creek, being the main cause for the division of the county. There was much talk before the division of establishing the seat of justice at Ripley.

The act of erecting Schuyler county appointed John Adams, Stephen Olmstead and James Dunwoode, of Morgan county, commissioners to locate the seat of justice, and who located it at or near where Pleasant

antview now stands, and called it Beards-town. But afterwards Leven Green, Thos. Blair and Benjamin Chadsey were appointed by the General Assembly to select a new location, and on the 20th day of February, 1826, a little over fifty years ago, they selected the present site of Rushville as the seat of justice, and called it Rushton (after an eminent physician in Philadelphia), which is the southwest quarter of section 30 in township two north range one west, and on April 24th, 1826, the County Commissioners ordered the name of the county seat changed from Rushton to Rushville.

Thomas Blair, Samuel McKee and Samuel Horney were the first County Commissioners.

The first town lots in Rushville were sold July 4th, 1826, and it was ordered that the notice of the same be published in the *Edwardsville Spectator*. J. D. Manlove was the first Surveyor of the county, Orris McCartney the first Sheriff, J. B. Terry the first Recorder and Circuit Clerk, Willis O'Neil the first Treasurer, and Major Hart Fellows afterward held almost all the offices within the gift of the people at the same time.

The first court of record held in the county was presided over by Judge John York Sawyer, and was held in a little cabin belonging to Samuel Turner, at about where Pleasantview now stands.

Right here we will refer to some of the noted personages who have lived, and some who still reside in Schuyler county. Judge T. Lyle Dickey, one of the Supreme Judges of the State, resided in this county in 1833-4. The lamented Senator W. A. Richardson was a resident of Rushville from about 1835 until 1849, when he removed to Quincy. Hon. Robert Blackwell, author of "Blackwell on Tax-Titles," also resided in Rushville until about the year 1850. The Hon. Wm. A. Minshall, who was second to none in the State as a jurist, was also a resident of and died in this county in the year 1851. And last, but not least, we still have in our midst Hon. Pinkney H. Walker, who has for over eighteen years graced the Supreme Bench, and for the present term was elected without opposition.

Schuyler county embraces a superficial area of a little over eleven townships, or about four hundred and fourteen square miles, and is bounded on the north by McDonough and Fulton counties, on the

east by Fulton county and the Illinois river; on the south by Brown county, and on the west by the counties of Adams and Hancock. When the county was erected all the territory lying north of it, and Hancock county, and west of the fourth principal meridian, was added to Schuyler for county purposes. Therefore Schuyler county virtually extended to and included all the territory north as far as Rock Island.

Its surface is considerably diversified with hills and valleys, prairies and heavily timbered woodlands, the proportion of prairie and timber lands being about one of the former to three of the latter. Along the bluffs of Crooked creek and the Illinois river the surface is quite broken and hilly, but even these broken lands possess a rich and productive soil, and are valuable for agricultural purposes wherever they are sufficiently level for cultivation. The prairies are mostly small and are restricted to the northern and western portions of the county. The county is well watered, mainly by Crooked creek and its affluents, which traverses its southern and western portion, and by Sugar creek and the Illinois river, the former intersecting the eastern portion of the county and the latter forming in part its eastern boundary.

Crooked creek furnished considerable water power, and in the early settlement of the county the inhabitants of this and several adjoining counties were dependant upon the water mills upon this stream for nearly all their milling facilities. More recently, however, steam power has to a great extent superseded the old water mill, and most of the mills on this stream have a steam engine attached to enable them to run throughout the year.

On the ridges adjacent to the small streams the timber is mostly black oak and hickory, but on the more level portions of the timbered regions, as well as on the bluffs of the Illinois river, we find, in addition to them, Elm, Linden, Sugar Maple, Wild Cherry and Honey Locust, an arboreal growth which indicates a soil of the best quality, fully equal to the best prairie soils.

Much of the uplands, where this growth of timber prevails, is underlaid by the marly sands and clays of the loess and rank among the very best lands in the State. Fine blue grass pastures are easily made upon these lands, and the soil is

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well adapted to the growth of fruit, especially the grape.

On the eastern border of the county there is a belt of alluvial bottoms, skirting the Illinois river from a mile to about four miles in width. Some portions of this land is above the high water level of the river, and these lands are very productive, while other portions are subject to annual overflows from the river floods and are of little value for agricultural purposes. A considerable portion of this is bottom prairie, but there is usually a belt of heavy timber skirting the river, and also the small streams, by which the bottoms are intersected. The timber on these low lands comprise Cottonwood, Sycamore, Soft Maple, Elm, Ash, Hickory, Pecan, Spanish Oak, Swamp White Oak, Pin Oak, Black Walnut, Hackberry, Buckeye, Honey Locust, Pawpaw, Willow, &c.

There are also belts of bottom lands upon some of the larger creeks of this county, as on Crooked and Sugar creeks, but these seldom exceed a half mile in width, and are covered with a heavy growth of timber.

The first settlement in the county was made by Calvin Hobart, on section sixteen, Rushville township, on the 19th of February, 1823. W. H. Taylor, then a slave man, afterwards quite a noted preacher, accompanied Mr. Hobart. He and Miss Elizabeth Spoonmore had the honor of being the first couple married in the county. Rev. Leven Green, the first Protestant preacher in the county, performing the marriage ceremony. The first white child born in the county was Wm. Eggleston; the second was Ann Fellows, now Mrs. Maro Farwell, of Frederick.

On July 3d, 1834, the cholera, in its most malignant and destructive form, visited the community of Rushville and swept like an angle of destruction among its inhabitants. The old and young alike fell victims to the dread destroyer, and general mourning succeeded.

The villages in the county consist of the following:

Camden was laid off January 28th, 1838, by Joseph N. Ward and Robert Brown. Samuel McHatton was Surveyor. Camden is situated on a high rolling prairie and is surrounded by a fine, rich farming country. It has two churches, school building, a saw and grist mill, four stores, two wagon shops, a chair shop, and a good hotel.

Brooklyn was laid off October 25th, 1836, by William C. Reno. Allen Persing-

er was the Surveyor. It is situated on Crooked creek, and does quite a thriving trade. From the flaming advertisements in regard to the sale of its town lots in 1837, which appeared in Philadelphia, New York and Pittsburg papers, a person would be led to believe that Brooklyn at that time bid fair to become the largest city in the Military Tract.

Fredericksville, on the Illinois river, was laid off by Frederick Johnst, May 13th, 1830. This town for many years was the river landing for Rushville, Macomb, and in fact for all the country for thirty or forty miles northwest of Rushville, and was the town in the county next in importance to Rushville. Within the past few years the Rockford, Rock Island and St. Louis Railroad has been built through the place, which has materially damaged the town as a shipping point.

Littleton, Huntsville, Birmingham, Pleasantview, Browning, Bluff City, Butler'sville, Osceola, Erwin, Ray Station, Newberry and Doddsville are thriving little towns in the county, but of which space will not permit us to speak at length.

The war records of Schuyler county show that her people were patriotic to the utmost degree. In the years 1830 and 1831 two companies raised in the county went forth to the Black Hawk war. The first was commanded by Maj. Hart Fellows and the second by Major Jonathan Randall. The troops rendezvoused at Beardstown and were under the command of Governor Reynolds. The first encampment made after leaving Beardstown was on the Berry farm, just beyond Jonathan Patteson's farm, about two miles east of Rushville.

In the year 1841 the Mormon war broke out and a company of volunteers left Rushville for the seat of war. They marched as far as Augusta, Illinois, when, deeming the danger over, they returned.

In the year 1846 the United States became involved in a war with Mexico and two companies of volunteers were raised in Schuyler, and offered their services to the General Government, which were accepted. One company left in 1846, under Wm. A. Richardson as Captain, and the other in 1847, under Captain Adams Dunlap.

During the late civil war Schuyler county did as much towards furnishing her quota of men for suppressing the rebellion as any other county in the State in proportion to her population. Eleven full

companies were raised in the county and took the field, to wit: Company G, 16th Illinois Infantry Volunteers, under Capt. Wm. H. McAllister; Co. G, 28th Ills. Inf'y Vols., under Capt. B. C. Gillam; Co. G, 73d Ill. Inf'y Vols., under Capt. John Sutton; Co. A, 78th Ill. Inf'y Vols., under Capt. Robert Blackburn; companies B, C, and F, 119th Ill. Inf'y Vols., under Captains Geo. Parker, R. L. Greer and Josiah Slack, respectively; Co. I, 62d Ill. Vol's Inf'y, under Capt. Joseph McLean; Co. D, 115th Ill. Vol's Inf'y, Capt. Stephen M. Huckstep; Engineer Regiment of the West, Capt. Wm. Hill; one company in the 10th Missouri Cavalry, under Capt. Leonidas Horney, and Co. K, ("hundred dazers") under Capt. R. A. Williams; two companies of cavalry, one under Captain Bredet, which was raised in the Northwestern portion of the county and the other under Capt. Rutledge, which was recruited in Browning township.

The first School District was formed in the year 1825, and to-day there are over ninety school districts in the county, most of which are supplied with neat and commodious school houses, and in the city of Rushville (which comprises an Union School District) they have erected a large and handsome edifice at a cost of over \$50,000. In the county there are also over thirty church buildings, which show that the county, during the fifty years of its existence, whilst making advancement in population has also advanced in equal ratio in the matter of education, morals and religion.

In 1825 Schuyler county comprised an area of 864 square miles, and a population of 4,240 inhabitants. To-day, with an area of only 414 square miles, the population amounts to nearly 20,000; over 100,000 acres of improved land of the value of about \$6,000,000, which shows that what was a timbered wilderness in the year 1825 has, by the industry and energy of its inhabitants, been caused to bloom and blossom as the rose.

Much more could be said in regard to the history of Schuyler county, but as I deem this sufficiently lengthy, will desist, tendering my sincere thanks to the gentlemen of the committee (Hon. W. H. Ray, John Putman and John C. Seripps) who appointed me historian, being aware, however, that my ability has been inadequate to the task assigned.

I will close by appending a short reminiscence of the early settlement of the county, which would form no part of the history proper.

Reminiscence is defined to be that faculty of the mind by which ideas formerly received into, but forgotten, are recalled or revived in the memory; in other words, recollection; or, recollection expressed. And in the preparation of this paper, narrating a few facts and incidents connected with the early settlement of Schuyler county, we do not presume that they have been forgotten by the older citizens of the county, but consider it simply a comparison of notes between some of the early settlers, recounting their hardships and trials, pleasures, sociabilities and contentment.

In the next place when the President requested each county to have its history written up and a copy furnished the librarian of Congress, it was intended that said history should be but a part going to make up a whole of a history of the United States which is hereafter to be compiled; and, as reminiscence is not history, the following incidents would not properly belong to it. Therefore, with the aid of the earliest records of the county, and the assistance of Messrs. Benjamin Chadsey, J. D. Manlove, William Wilson and a few others of Schuyler's pioneers, I have prepared the following, thinking it may be of interest to some:

The first settlement in the county was made on section 16, Rushville township, on the farm now owned by T. W. Scott, by Calvin Hobart, in the year 1823, and his wife, Sallie, was the first white woman who ever crossed the river into Schuyler county. Wm. H. Taylor, then a single man, accompanied them, and he and Miss Elizabeth Spohnamores had the honor of being the first couple married in the county, which marriage was celebrated Nov. 25, 1825, by Leven Green, the first Methodist or Protestant preacher in the county. The second marriage, James Lammers and Delila Keller.

The family of Spohnamores came to the county in the year 1825, and of said family there are still living Mrs. Nancy Marlow, Susan Wilson (wife of "Uncle Billy" Wilson) and Mr. Samuel Spohnamore.

In comparing the records with the history, as written in the map of Schuyler county, I find many discrepancies which these reminiscences will set at rights.

The pathway into the wilderness having been blazed by the Hobarts in 1823, there came in the year 1824-5, Benjamin Chadsey; Jonathan D. Manlove, who was afterwards the first surveyor; Samuel Horney, Thomas Blair and Thomas McKee, afterwards the first county commissioners; J. B. Terry, first recorder and county clerk; Orris McCartney, afterwards the first sheriff; Willis O'Neill, afterwards the first treasurer; Maj. Hart Fellows, who afterwards held the offices of recorder, postmaster, justice of peace, and every other office almost within the gift of the people of the county; and a host of others whose names we have not space to mention.

The first election held in the county, after its erection, was on July 4th, 1825, at Beardstown, near Pleasantview. Cornelius Vandeventer, Abram Carlock, judges; Hart Fellows and J. D. Manlove clerks.

In the year 1826 one Jesse Bartlett assessed the value of all the property in the county, subject to taxation and for his services received the grand sum of six dollars, and, to day, after a lapse of fifty years, and with a county half the size it was then, we have thirteen assessors with an average cost of \$150 each.

The first court in the county was presided over by Judge John York Sawyer, and was held in a little cabin just west of Pleasantview, where the county seat (called Beardstown) was located. The land is now owned and farmed by Geo. M. Greer, esq. The house or cabin was at the time owned by Samuel Turner, and, I find, on page 11 of the early records, an order of two dollars for the use of his cabin three days for court purposes.

Slavery also seems to have been in vogue in Schuyler county fifty years ago, as I find on page 43 of the records the following: "Ordered, That a county tax of one-half per cent. be levied on the following described property, to wit: Slaves, indentured or registered negro or mulatto servants, on all wheel carriages, stills and distilleries, horses, mules, stocks in trade, etc., etc." The revenue for 1826 amounted to \$118.90.

The first licensed ferry across the Illinois river was established June 5th, 1826;

application for same having been made by Thomas Beard, the same was granted upon his paying the sum of six dollars per annum into the county treasury. The ferry was across the river where Beardstown now stands, and the rates of ferriage affixed by the board nearly the same as they now are.

The first tavern license was granted to Orris McCartney, Nov. 3, 1825, upon paying the sum of three dollars into the treasury and one dollar to the clerk. The following were the rates he was allowed to receive:

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|---|------------------|
| For diet per meal.....                  | 18 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| For horse keeping over night.....       | 25               |
| For horse feed.....                     | 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| For lodging.....                        | 6 $\frac{1}{4}$  |
| Whisky per half-pint.....               | 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| Whisky per gill.....                    | 6 $\frac{1}{4}$  |
| Foreign spirits per half-pint.....      | 25               |
| Foreign spirits per gill.....           | 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| Cider, methglin and beer per quart..... | 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ |

The first bridge built across Crooked creek was erected by Benjamin Chadsey. The contract was awarded him June 4th, 1827. The bridge was erected where the State road from Rushville to Quincy crossed said creek, near where the Ripley bridge now stands, and upon its completion the county paid Mr. Chadsey the sum of \$400, the contract price. To day there are five bridges spanning that stream, costing about \$4,000 each, which shows how much labor and material have advanced since 1827. The Bridge built by Mr. Chadsey was carried away by the waters caused by the melting of the deep snow in 1831, which fell to the depth of three feet on a level, and which it is said occasioned the destruction of much wild game.

The first school district erected in the county was July 22d, 1825, and was bounded as follows: Beginning at northeast corner of section No. 4, Rushville township (northeast corner of Geo. Simpson's present farm), thence west to northwest corner of section 1, in Buenavista township (the northwest corner of the section upon which Simon Doyle now lives), thence south to the township line (south line of John McCreery's farm), thence east to the southeast corner of section 33 (near White Oak school house), thence north to place of beginning. It contained twenty four square miles and was designated as district No. 1. It is supposed that Jonathan D. Manlove and his wife



were the first teachers in this school district.

Isaac Naught, George Naught, Thomas McKee Cornelius Vandeventer, Peter Jonte and others were among the earliest settlers in the southern part of the county. An amusing but aggravating incident is related by Peter Jonte: He, being a Frenchman, and fond of wine, ordered a barrel of it to be shipped him from La belle France. It came, as per order, via New Orleans, and up the Mississippi and Illinois rivers to Beard's ferry, a distance of about 5,000 miles. He went thither with a team and wagon to bring it home, and, when coming up the bluff hill and almost in sight of his house, the barrel rolled out the hind end of the wagon, down the hill several rods and was finally dashed to pieces against a tree. If he did n't swear, it is evidence through what troubles and trials christian fortitude will bear a person.

I will now give a few particulars concerning the early settlement of Rushville. As you have learned from the history, the seat of justice of Schuyler county was located March 6, 1826, by the commissioners appointed for that purpose, on the southwest quarter of section 30, 2 north 1 west, and was called Rushton, after the name of Dr. Rush, an eminent physician of Philadelphia. But, on April 24, 1826, it was ordered to be changed from Rushton to Rushville. The commissioners appointed David Blair to go to Springfield and procure the patent for said southwes. of 30, and for which service the records show that he received the sum of \$2.50.

After having procured the patent the county commissioners sold the east half of the quarter to Jacob White for the sum of \$150, which east half is all that part of the present town from a line drawn north and south, eighty feet east of the public square, to a line drawn north and south along the west line of Dr. R. M. Worthington's premises.

The first white child born in Rushville was Ann Fellows, now Mrs. Maro Farwell.

The first court house erected in Rushville was a building 18x22, and one and one-half stories high, and, as the records say, was to have a good and sufficient chimney. It stood on the north side of the public square, at about the same place

where Griffith's store now stands. It was erected in the fall of 1826. In the year 1827 the clerk's office was built much after the same style, on the east side of the square, where J. R. Neill's store, or Ryan's houses now stand. It was built by Alex. Hollingsworth and plastered by James Powers.

The first school house was built on lot 1 block 1, where the Christian church now stands. The house was built in a hazle thicket, as many men in this audience who attended school to Mr. Davis and received flagellations at his hands, perhaps can attest.

On July 24th, 1829, a contract was entered into between the commissioners of the county and Wm. McCreery and Benjamin Chadsey for the building of the court house which now adorns the public square in Rushville. The contract for the foundation walls was awarded to Wm. McCreery for the sum of \$375, and the superstructure to Benjamin Chadsey at the sum of \$2,050. Both jobs were performed according to the terms of the contract, and the court house in Rushville is the cheapest house ever built in the town. To-day the stalage or shrinkage would amount to more than the cost of the building at that time. Hart Fellows superintended the building.

The first jail was built on the same lot where the present jail now stands, but a little southwest of the present edifice. It was built of logs, one and one-half stories high, and the prisoners were let down into it by or through a trap-door or hatchway cut through the upper floor. Joel Tullis made the trap doors according to specifications published, and received therefor the sum of \$43.

Benjamin Chadsey made the first ballot box used, and for which, the county commissioners allowed him the sum of \$1.75.

Elizabeth Sprigg was the first ward in the county who had a guardian appointed for her; Rev Leven Green being appointed. The first ward to choose a guardian under the law was Reuben Lock, who now resides just beyond Ripley on the road to Mt. Sterling. To-day our respected member of Congress, Hon. J. C. Bagby, is alone guardian of over eighty minors.

On December 23, 1859, the county court ordered that John Ritchey be authorized to purchase of Abram Louderback, one or two acres of land in some suitable and

convenient place as a cemetery, near Rushville. He did so by purchasing two acres of ground where the old sand stones now stand in the beautiful cemetery in the suburbs of Rushville.

In the year 1834 (July 3), the cholera made its appearance in the thriving settlement of Rushville and swept like a besom of destruction over the county. The strong man of mature years the aged and the young alike succumbed to the attack of the dread destroyer. Retiring at night in good health, many slept that sleep that knows no waking. William McCreery was the first who succumbed to the disease and Mr. Putman, father of John and Brower Putman, the second. Many others whose names I can not ascertain, felt victims to the epidemic.

The only executions for murder in Schuyler county were, Thomas Morgan, for the murder of Frank Everts, which was committed on the top of Coal Creek hill, on the lower road to Frederick. He was executed in 1834, on the Crane-Creek hill, at Gallows ford, near where Perry Neill now lives. The next executions were the McFaddens, father and son, who were executed in June, 1835, for the murder of one Thomas Wilson, in the county of McDonough, and their trial was moved here on a change of venue. Hon. W. A. Richardson, prosecuting attorney, prosecutor, and Cyrus Walker and Wm. A. Minshall, Schuyler's most brilliant lawyers, defended. After a fair and impartial trial, the parties were convicted and sentenced to be hung. Uncle Ranslaer Wells was foreman on the jury which convicted them. Mr. Joseph Dennis, I understand, has the boards which composed the scaffold, in his barn, three miles north of town. They were hung at Gallows ford, just below Mrs. Neill's, on Crane creek.

I could multiply incidents indefinitely, but considering this sketch sufficiently long, I will close by reading a letter I received from Mr. J. D. Manlove:

FORT SCOTT, Kansas, June 11, 1876.

HENRY S. METZ, Esq.: Yours of the 1st inst. just received and considered. Will endeavor to comply with your request by giving such information as I have that is not of record.

When I first came to Schuyler, which was in September, 1824, there was only a *blazed* pathway from where Beardstown is to Section 16 in Rushville township. Thomas Beard had a small ferry-boat that

would cross a wagon and two horses, by unhitching the horses and crowding in; but Mr. Beard was not there, and the boat was on the west side of the river. At the bluffs east of Beardstown Mr. Samuel Horney and I met with Mr. Thomas McKee, who then lived where Esq. Lawler died. I being the younger swam my horse over the river, it being low, and brought the boat over. There was a very small log cabin built about where H. Foster's store was, and it was built over a snake-den, where all kinds of snakes came in the fall and took up their winter quarters.

In February, 1825, I removed to Schuyler and became a citizen of the county. There were living then on the 16th section, 2 N. 1 W., Calvin Hobart, Orris McCartney, Nathan Ecls, Wm. H. Taylor, Samuel Gooche and Grandsire Hobart, the father of Calvin Hobart, a very old man and a revolutionary soldier. D. E. Blair was living on the old Phillips place, near Geo. M. Greer's; Thomas Blair on the old Tyson place; Thomas McKee on the Lawler place; Joel Pennington on the McCartney place; Riggs Pennington on the place I sold to George Little; Levin Green on the old Sparks place; George Stewart on the Vail place; Willis O'Neil on section 16, 1 N. 1 W.; Samuel Horney and I improved where George Manlove lives; Cornelius and Isaac Vandeventer lived at the bluff, northwest of Meredosia, then in Schuyler.

I noticed some errors in the atlas map of Schuyler. Calvin Hobart did not settle on section 17 first, but on 16; Jonathan Reno did not settle in the county in 1828, but in 1825; Wm. Robeson was the first settler in Browning township; E. Eggleston did not settle in Camden township in 1824, but Robert and John Brown were the first settlers; Henry and John Green were the first settlers in Buenavista townships, and other errors of minor importance.

At the first and second court held in the county the lawyers were Jas. Turney (Attorney General), John Turney, Jonathan H. Pugh, A. W. Cavarly and David Prickett; John York Sawyer was the Judge. I piloted them to Quincy, there being no road to that place, and David Sacket packed their beef, corn bread and whisky. We camped the first night near where Camden now stands. At McKee's creek, near Columbus, we differed about the way to Quincy. Judge Sawyer, Cavarly and Prickett took an Indian trail and went some twenty miles into Pike county. The Judge was very



sick and they did not get to Quincy until sundown next day. The Turneys, Pugh and I reached there two hours by sun same evening.

About 1823 McCartney and Beard brought a large drove of hogs (pointers) to the county, expecting to raise corn and keep them tame, but the large amount of mast soon made them independent and wild, and they soon overrun the country as far as McDonough county. The Indian dogs ran them as other game, and any person killing them were allowed half for so doing. As there were at that time no others they were of some little benefit to settlers. But dissatisfaction with the Indians and their dogs was universal, and in March, I think, 1826, nineteen men (all there were that could go) called on them at a trading house just below Crooked creek, on the river, killed some of their dogs and gave them ten days to leave. The traders were also notified to leave, or their effects (ammunition and whisky) would be thrown into the river. That was the last of the Indians, as they immediately left.

In the summer of 1826 I taught school in my own cabin, on the Little place, and my wife taught on section 16, near the Minshall place (both single then). I was the first County Surveyor and John B. Terry first Recorder; Levin Green and James Vance first Magistrates. Levin Green was the first preacher (Methodist) and a Mr. Sweet (Baptist) was the next. Mr. S. only preached twice, perhaps. Mr. Green could preach faster, say more sharp back-woods things, and make stronger and better illustrations than any illiterate man I have ever heard. Cyrus L. Watson (Presbyterian) was the second settled preacher.

Mr. C. Hobart had the first mill (band mill), and Thomas McKee, George Nott (or Naught) and Cornelius Vandeverter had hand mills. Though we were deprived of many comforts we were friendly, social and happy; made use of common sense and were content, hoping for better times in the future.

Myself and perhaps Orris McCartney, of Caseyville, Wisconsin (if he is still alive), are the only persons living who were adults when I came to Schuyler county. The judge and lawyers alluded in a previous paragraph are all dead except Mr. A. W. Cavalry, who resides at Ottawa, Ill.

Mr. Solomon Standberry, who was stop-

ping with John Ritchey, who lived on the place now owned by Isaac Garrison, was the first to die in the county. He died of typhoid fever. I went to Jacksonville for Dr. Taylor, who said he would be dead on my return, which proved to be true.

I have taken time and believe what I have given is correct, but have not said anything about what is of record except in relation to the Recorder, Surveyor and Magistrates. They are not noticed in the map of the county. You have the facts and can arrange them as you think proper.

Respectfully yours,

J. D. MANLOVE.

#### ADDRESS OF PROF. H. A. SMITH.

[Not being able to obtain a copy of Prof. Smith's oration, the merest outline is given.]

To-day with a population of forty million free men, we are not ashamed of the Republic and its supporters. Though national sins have been committed, yet if the heroes of 1776 could look upon us now, they would be proud of the people for whose liberty they solemnly and mutually pledged their lives, their fortunes and their sacred honor.

We hold these truths to be self evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. The emancipation proclamation gave the negroes an equal right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, hence all are equal before the law. It cost the blood of patriot sons and millions of treasure to preserve and perpetuate the Union. And her founders upon the memorable 4th of July, 1776, gave to us the title deed of our liberties.

The great intestine strife which prostrated this country, is without parallel. America is second to none in the progress of arts, science and industry. Her fertile lands are blossoming with peace and plenty the reward of skillful labor which aims to secure for all the greatest good.

Our government is the proudest and best, because it gives the humblest a chance for wealth, honor and distinction.

The ballot box is all powerful in purify-

ing the body politic, and should be guarded as the hope of the Republic. We must elect noble and worthy men to fill positions of trust. Private and public duties should go hand in hand. Our magnificent rivers, broad valleys and mountains of mineral wealth produce all the necessities and most of the luxuries of life. We have numerous and superior seats of learning, which yearly send out cultivated men and women, and it is intellect that has reared up the magnificent structure of the temple of our national glory.

#### ADDRESS OF HON. P. H. WALKER.

In responding to the toast, "The Legal Profession," I may be permitted to refer to the past rather than the present. It is there that we must look to find the character of the profession, unobscured by prejudice, and thus to form a more correct appreciation of its present standing. When we look to England, whence we have drawn our laws, our morals, and our civilization, we find great names in the profession who struggled hard for the liberty of the people and were not unsuccessful in resisting the encroachments of power. Or, if we turn to our own country, we find the legal profession have been as active, heroic and devoted as any other class to the principles of liberty, and struggled as manfully for the achievement of our independence, in the framing of our government and in maintaining our institutions. They may not, as a rule, have gone into the tented field, they may not have endured the vicissitudes of war, but they sustained the cause by wise counsel, and providing the means, and lending moral force, and encouraging the wavering, and supporting measures indispensable to success.

Educated, trained and thoroughly drilled in the eternal principles of justice and right, the lawyer is duly and constantly contending for their assertion and application in the ordinary affairs of life. By these principles and their constant application, the lawyer, of all others, should grow in the knowledge of truth, justice and right, and the great lawyer can only violate these principles knowingly and pre-

meditatedly. Of all men they should be the most moral, just and upright.

And we find in the complex organization of society, government and our civilization, the lawyer, like the divine, the physician, the editor, the politician, the agriculturist, the tradesman, the artisan and the laborer, has his part to perform in the world's great drama. It is his duty to see that the strong and affluent shall not oppress the weak and helpless. It is his province to resist aggressions of government on the rights and liberty of the people on the one hand and to sustain the government in the exercise of all of its legitimate rights on the other. The study of the profession fits them for the performance of these and many other highly important duties to the individual and to the public.

English and American history abounds in brilliant examples of heroic efforts by members of the profession in behalf of liberty. They, as a class, have been conservative in its better sense. They have advanced steadily, but cautiously, in the attainment of higher and broader principle, in the administration of justice, and in securing men in their just rights. Whilst government and law in their administration, like all things human, must be imperfect, still the profession labors for the correction of all wrongs.

What I have here said, of course, applies to the thorough and learned lawyer, and not to those who have never mastered the principles of the science.

The profession, from their study and their constant efforts in the administration of justice, learn practically the imperfection of the laws, and the necessities of the people. They thereby become well qualified, for the position of legislators and executive officers. Hence, we find many of the most profound and brilliant statesmen, of this and the mother country, have been equally great as lawyers. Whilst Mansfield, Holt, Coke, Hardwick and a host of others have, by their judicial eminence, shed glory in British history, Marshall, Kent, Tany, Storey, Parsons and many others, have cast imperishable brilliancy on our own country.

And, when we turn to the bar, the senate and the halls of congress we find the names of Hamilton, Webster, Henry, Martin, Wirt, Pinkney, Clay, Calhoun and a long array of other names, of whom we

may be justly proud. If we turn to our legislative bodies, we there find they have been no less conspicuous. The profession has been well represented in those bodies, and have there developed many of our profoundest statesmen, who have aided in maintaining our institutions, in promoting our interests, and developing our civilization.

If we turn to our great struggle for national independence, we there find that the profession took an active, if not a leading, part in its achievement. They were generally on the side of the people and opposed to the encroachments of the crown. Their burning eloquence aroused the people to resistance, and nerved them to battle for their rights. And we may justly claim for them some of the credit in achieving our liberty, and in establishing and maintaining a government, formed in unsurpassed wisdom, established on the great principle of equal and exact right and justice to all. And if it shall be wisely and purely administered, it is capable of affording greater and more uniform protection to all than any other ever founded.

If we turn to the executive department we there find the profession has been well represented [Of the fifteen presidents elected by the people, and the three who became presidents by succession,] it is claimed [that fourteen at least were lawyers, and under the administration of these lawyer presidents, the country has marched on in an unprecedented course of glory, prosperity and power.] And we find that they have been governors of States, and have filled with honor cabinet offices. In fact they have filled every position of trust under the government with credit to the public service and honor to themselves. Nor should we be surprised to find it so, inasmuch as the training of the profession qualifies them for the administration of the affairs of government better than that of any other profession or calling. Other professions have to add the study of the science of government to that of their profession, whilst with the lawyer, he can not become eminent in his profession without also understanding well the principles of government.

We may then conclude that, during the century just closed, the legal profession have done their part and discharged their duty to the government, and to society, quite as well as other professions and

callings. They have been quite as active as others in producing the condition of things existing at present, of which we are so justly proud. And it is to be hoped that the profession may remain uncorrupted, and ever take a lively interest and pride in defending the right and in opposing wrong, oppression and injustice, come whence it may. It is my most fervent wish that the profession may remain for another century as able, as pure and useful as it has been in the past hundred years. If it should, an appreciative people will confer deserved honors upon its members and repay them with distinction. I hope it may ever be as worthy of trust and honor in the future as it has in the past.

#### ADDRESS OF JUDGE E. J. PEMBERTON

THE UNION AS OUR FATHERS MADE IT.

*Fellow citizens, ladies and gentlemen:*

Only one hundred years ago to day, only a good long life time for a person, this government of ours first sprang into existence—was born. And contemplating her rapid progress and wonderful development in education, science, wealth, inventions and productions, already spoken of in part, springing at a bound from weakness to strength and numbers, scattering her products into every part of the known world, furnishing a home and shelter to the oppressed of all nations, and still maintaining the virtue of its citizens, so that she now numbers her millions of patriots, all qualified alike for the battle field and the harvest field, for the use of the sword and the scythe, and a whole nation of women fitted to all domestic duties; contemplating, I say, her progress and development, pushed on until foremost among the nations of the earth, and all accomplished within a life time, leads us to liken the circumstance to the fabled story of Minerva, the goddess of wisdom, who, in her birth sprang full-grown at a bound from the brain of Jove.

This progress and development, this position among the nations of the earth, this national glory, wrought out in so short a time, is chiefly in consequence of the institutions and government left to us



by our fathers. I refer to the system of the Union of the States under the constitution—the wise parceling and distribution of the powers of government by granting to the general government only such powers and functions as are essentially national in their character and needs, and reserving to the States formed, and to the people, all other powers, functions and privileges whatever, to be manipulated only by those immediately concerned, and leaving no man or men to participate in the exercise of any function or power who is not himself, together with others, directly interested therein.

To this wise distribution of the powers of government, I say, we are indebted for almost all we are to day, for almost all of our national progress and development; for, by it all national burthens, of intercourse with other nations, looking to the peace, order and interests of the States collectively, executing and enforcing the constitution of the United States in all its departments, furnishing of revenue and every thing pertaining to nationality and necessary for its maintenance are removed forever from the States and granted to and required to be performed by the general government, and the States respectively left to look to and further all local interests and developments, so that no progress, no improvements, no development, no advancement receives any check or obstruction from the government, but are all protected and furthered by appropriate co-extensive legislation. This is wherein our government sits lightly upon our shoulders.

Under this governmental policy she has moved with rapid strides from the original family of thirteen States to three times that number at present. This policy allows no dependent territory governed from without, but erects all into States and leaves all local matters with them; and no sooner is any portion of her territory weaned from territorial childhood, than such portion springs at once into womanhood and greatness, and helps to make up and adorn that grand galaxy of equal States, all sisters and symbolized by the stars upon the field of her banner, and all moving on in mutual interest and affection under that glorious motto of "State sovereignty joined with National Union."

This union of the States is the secret of our prosperity in the past, our only hope

for the future, the anchor of our future existence and security, our political Gibraltar which our enemies do and ever will seek to carry first. I would write the sentiment on every banner, let it float to every breeze, hand it down to all coming posterity, hold it in common with the recognition of Jehovah and the duties owing to him, and instill it into the politics of every man and child, not permitting even a thought or imagination of what we should do in case of centralization or dismemberment, but hold it as a sacred sentiment that this government must forever continue a government of the States united under the constitution, and her banner never be sullied by the obliteration or dimming of a single star, nor the prosperity or peace of the nation blighted, nor the individual rights of any of its citizens engulfed in either consolidation or disintegration.

In all my toasts I would toast this Union of the States, the Union under the constitution, the Union as our fathers made it; and I would fill the bumper full.

A long time ago a famous Grecian law-giver gave to his countrymen his code of laws, and left his country on a journey to die away from home. And, knowing the simplicity and worth of the code of laws he was giving them, and the high esteem in which they held him, he, in the hope of perpetuating those laws among them, enjoined on them to keep and maintain those laws until he should return.

Now, while we in our rapid progress and change of interests can not keep and maintain all minor laws adopted, yet our law-givers of unparalleled wisdom—our fathers who passed through affliction and oppression—who knew both peace and war—who came up out of great tribulation, washed, as it were, in sad experience and unselfish virtue. These fathers, these law-givers gave to us this model of government, the Union of the States under the constitution for an inheritance, and have gone on a long journey. Let us then, in keeping with the injunction of the Grecian law-giver, show our esteem and regard for our law-givers, and the system they gave, by keeping, preserving and maintaining this model of government until they return.

## ADDRESS OF R. H. GRIFFITH.

## "THE STATE OF ILLINOIS."

I am extremely fortunate in speaking after the noble utterances of Judge Pemberton. I am sure every heart in the assembly responds to his noble sentiments, and I am glad that, as a member of the opposite political party from Judge Pemberton, I can stand here to day and fully endorse the words you have just heard. There has been in some parts of our country a bogus doctrine of State sovereignty, a doctrine now forever banished to the chimeras of the past by the result of the late civil war. But the true doctrine of State sovereignty is that which has just been set before you, "State sovereignty under the constitution of the Union." Here is where we stand in Illinois. For this we have spent our blood and our treasure.

But while we love our land and nation, we love our State, and are proud of it and its history. The Illinoisan who has not, next to wife and children, a warm, loving place in his heart of hearts for his noble State, is not fit to breathe this air, nor roam over these prairies. And, what reason we have to be proud of our State! The motto on the coat of arms of our neighboring State of Michigan is, "*Si quaeris peninsulam amoenam circumspice*" ("If you seek a beautiful peninsula, look around you."). And so, I say, if you would see the glory of our State, look around you. See her vast network of railroads, see her towns and cities that have sprung up like magic upon her prairies, see her vast coal fields, and her fertile prairies, look at her manufactories of woolen, of iron, of watches, of almost everything used in our homes!

But it is of her men that Illinois is chiefly proud. When the Almighty would teach mankind to reap the golden harvests by a more rapid means than the cradle and the scythe, He raised up a McCormick and his compeers, who gave us the reaping machine. When He would teach us to plant corn by means of horse power, He took a mechanic from one of our work shops to give us the corn planter. To day the plows of Illinois are in use from Virginia to California, and are assisting

the farmers of Europe to cultivate their soil.

When I came to Illinois, nearly twenty-five years ago, Stephen A. Douglas, the "little giant of the Northwest," was in the zenith of his fame, and not only in Illinois, but through this land from North to South, he went, with his clarion voice, speaking noble words for the Union and constitution. And, when our God would raise up a man to guide this nation through a long and bloody war, he came here to Illinois, and out of the ranks of the legal profession, of which Judge Walker has just so ably spoken, he took a Lincoln to guide the nation to peace and liberty. And, when a general was necessary to lead our armies through this war, he was found here in the tannery of Galena, a man whom we can not judge impartially now, but who will stand forth hereafter on the page of history, as one of the greatest captains of this or any other age.

But, gentlemen, I am proud of this county in which we live. When I came to Schuyler county, it used to be the fashion of some to deem our county as being very insignificant, and of little account any way. But, my fellow citizens, we have no cause to blush for our county. It is one of the smallest in territorial extent, and in population, but in nothing else is it inferior. In wealth, in mineral resources, in agricultural wealth, in manufactories, in every thing that goes to make a State, it is comparatively no whit behind her sisters. In the admirable history of this county, which has been read in your hearing, you heard of Hart Fellows, who, at one time, held almost all the offices in the gift of the people. When he went to California he was immediately elected by the people there to a responsible position, and has been occupying it ever since. Our sons are to-day occupying positions of honor, of usefulness, and responsibility in Kansas, Nebraska, Iowa, and everywhere in the West. And here is the Hon. Pinkney H. Walker, who has graced the supreme bench of our State for so many years. And here on this platform sits one of the heroes of Schuyler county, Benjamin Chadsey, the man who built this court house so honestly and cheaply. Here too sits, to day, Capt. Adams Dunlap, the man who led a company (an army, I was going to say), of Schuyler county heroes to win part of Mexico to



become part of our nation, before many of this audience was born. But, gentlemen, these are men of an age passing away. The present is not behind them.

When this county was attached to others in one congressional district, so that there was a chance for us to elect a Republican member of Congress, we offered the convention a man, our choice, whom they were wise enough to make their candidate. And, when the Democrats, two years ago, thought they saw their choice, they came to Schuyler, took their candidate and elected him. We have never been ashamed of either of them, and are going to get one of them back again this fall, if we can.

Now, my fellow citizens, I will not detain you longer, but in closing, give you this sentiment, "Schuyler county, one of the smallest, but in every respect the peer of her sisters.

#### ADDRESS OF REV. J. B. WOLFE.

##### "OUR FREE SCHOOLS."

*Ladies and Gentlemen:*

Every advanced form of government requires, for its prosperity and perpetuity, a general diffusion of knowledge? What ever resources of wealth a nation may have are more effectually utilized by the touch of intelligent labor. Improved intelligence must favorably affect the moral conscience of the people.

Such is the construction of society everywhere that knowledge can not be generally diffused except by public institutions of learning maintained by legislation. Let these be propositions for demonstration and let us see their relation particularly to our Republic.

Let us see the influence of knowledge as diffused through the public school system:

1. It greatly promotes the material prosperity of a nation. Intellectual culture, as imparted by it, touches into greater efficiency and activity our commerce on land and sea, moves upon mechanical industry, and develops and husband's our agricultural and mineral productiveness. Pauperism is reduced by the education of the masses. Statistics fully demonstrate that as education increases, pauperism

diminishes. In 1870 this country supported one hundred and sixteen thousand paupers, at the cost of eleven million dollars. More than nine tenths of these paupers are illiterate. Adopting a system of free schools, affecting the culture of each child to the present standard, would save about eleven million dollars, restore a hundred thousand persons to the number of industrious producers, and almost double the productive power of the laborer. It increases the skill, gives a higher appreciation of civil rights, and thereby augments the military force of a nation. In the late Franco-Prussian war every indication seemed, to the casual observer, to favor the triumph of France. But two generations had passed since France had Prussia subordinated, and entertained a taunting spirit of superiority over her; while the latter barely endured it for the time, gathering strength by the education of her children. When the time of the conflict came, the French army confidently crossed the Prussian lines only to be astonished, humiliated, and defeated by the superior intellectual force of the Germans. The defeat was so sudden and complete that the imperial follies scarcely had time to halt in their disgraceful retreat. General education intensified the heroism that gave triumph to German arms. Such are our resources of wealth and the relation we sustain to other governments, that no nation needs such general culture more than ours.

2. It is a powerful means of quickening the moral conscience of the nation. A nation can not be prosperous very long without moral conscience. "Righteousness exalteth a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people," is the Divine philosophy of a nation's exaltation. It is needed especially in this radical nation, the institutions of which make almost every man a politician. All true culture tends upward. Because the Creator's purpose was clearly that men's faculties should be developed, it follows that a neglect of the law of development would work disaster. The carefulness that characterized the conduct of the two great political parties in this country in their recent nomination of candidates for the chief offices of government was in respect to the moral conscience of the people and that greatly indebted to the God favored institution of free schools.

3. There is another account of the upward influence of education in a country like ours. Moral and christian influence compasses society like a pure atmosphere. Faculties, opened by education, unconsciously absorb it in sufficient amount to be at least outwardly improved. As the tree putting forth its leaves through them opens millions of mouths which drink in the nourishment supplied by the air, so is a mind whose thought power opens out in a christian land. Of the 36,000 criminals prosecuted and imprisoned, ninety per cent are from the illiterate class. Pauperism and crime cost more than the whole annual expense of common schools. How is this illiteracy to be destroyed? Through *our free schools* furnishing an opportunity to all for intellectual culture.

4. The extent among the people and the degree of intellectual culture necessary for the safety and perpetuity of a government, is in proportion as it approaches a Republic. If we go into the despotic regions of the East, we will find but little culture and as little required for the miserable rule. In despotic Asia and Africa, but little intellectual training is necessary to carry on their idea of government. In England, where a limited form exists, there is much need for the diffusion of knowledge. In Republican America, where there is no royalty except in relation to the King of kings, no official inheritance, but the design of the election of personal merit and adaption, how much greater need for general and thorough diffusion of knowledge. National ignorance is the source of national ingratitude, moral degradation and wretchedness.

There is great danger in our country today by the elective franchise being extended to thousands of ignorant citizens, placed in this relation by the almost inevitable results of the war.

By instinct the tide of immigration is set toward our shores, and must always be thus. In 1870 when our population was only a little more than 38,000,000, there were 5,000,000 who were born in foreign lands, and 10,000,000 more whose parents were born in foreign lands, giving us at most one half the nation practically foreign. Many of these come with crude ideas of our institutions, unless they can be Americanized, the exercise of citizenship here must peril our liberties. Let no one suppose that we lack friendship for the foreigner. He is always welcome.

We remember that opposite and antagonistic civilization can not co-exist under one form of government. The old Roman Empire finally embraced so many diverse elements that it fell to pieces. There was no unifying force. If ruin resulted from such causes in an empire, how much more swiftly it must come to a Republic. To harmonize and unify these elements, our free schools are indispensable. While they equip all the coming men and women for citizenship, by giving them intelligence, it gives a peculiar other fitness to the mind of the foreigner, a thousand times better security to the country than the oath of allegiance.

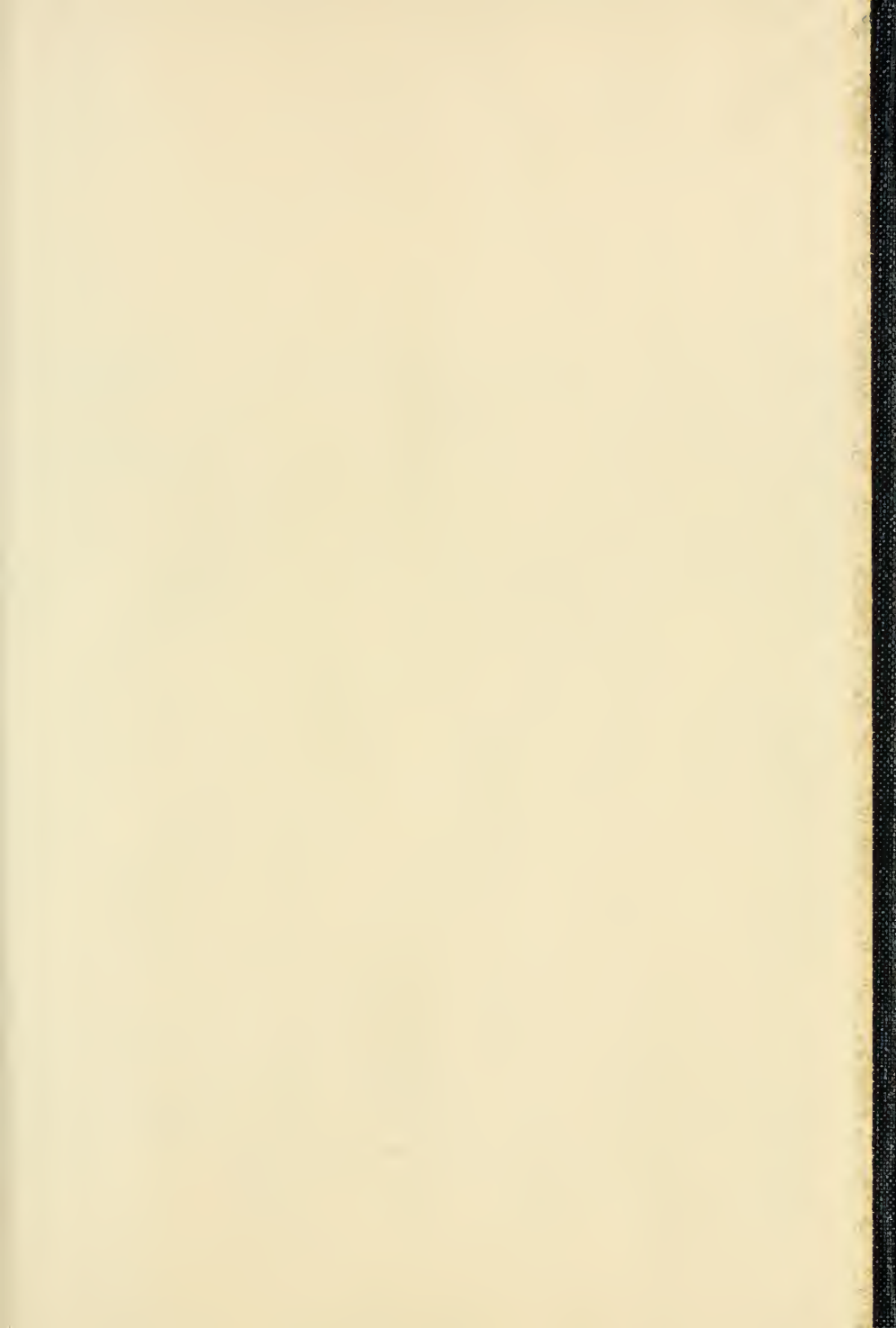
Let us, then, cherish our free school system. Let us look to it as the means of the elimination of ignorance from the nation, the preparation of the mind for the better reception of moral truth which, coupled together, shall increase the productiveness of our material wealth, purify the conscience of the nation, adjust our civil polity to more perfectly accord with the moral code, and transmit to future generations a government in health and wisdom.

[The above is set up from the rough draft of the original, without revision by the author.]

ERRATA: The last line of the second column on page three should read *fourteen* instead of "eleven."

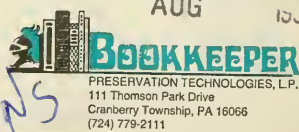








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